



RHODE ISLAND FED

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“ROLL CALL” TOLLS VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN ANTI-GANG MESSAGE

The “Roll Call” scrolls up the screen for more than four minutes over the sound of Wynton Marsalis playing a haunting New Orleans funeral march. It starts with Derrick Barnes, 26, killed on January 2, 1994. It ends, 145 names later, with Richard Perez, 20, shot to death on June 12, 2006.

It tolls the names of boys and girls as young as 12, men and women as old as 30, all killed by acts of violence in Providence between 1994 and 2006. Some were gang members, some the targets of grudges, some innocent bystanders. Two were police officers and one was a 15-year old girl prepared to testify about a murder she had witnessed.

1-2-94, Derrick Barnes, 26
1-29-94, Thomas Silvestri, 26
2-3-94, Sgt. Steven Shaw, 27
2-3-94, Corey Fields, 24
2-17-94, Alain Moise, 28
2-24-94, Allen McCreedy, 13
5-3-94, Roger Oliver, 23
6-24-94, Rolando Miles, 18
7-19-94, Fernando Tavares, 23
8-14-94, Manuel Miranda, 18
9-6-94, Temujin Vandergroen, 18
11-9-94, Jose Mendes, 18

The Roll Call is the introduction to an anti-gang presentation by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose, the U.S. Attorney's anti-gang coordinator. The office has brought the presentation to more than a dozen high and middle schools in Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls and Cranston. In the fall, it will be brought to more schools under the banner StreetSmarts and in collaboration with the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence, which operates a violence-intervention project in Providence.

Pipe bomb maims gang member's mother — page 4

“The roll call is partially intended for shock value,” Mr. Rose said. “It’s also a poignant foundation for our dual-pronged message — debunking the romantic myths about gang life and telling young people that they have alternatives, that they don’t have to follow the gangster path.”

The presentation touches on some of the reasons people join gangs – identity, protection, money, excitement, perceived respect and lack of a family structure,. It also explains why they are myths. (*Continued on page 2*)

FEDERAL DRUG CASES

Two are resentenced after Appeals Court disallows lowering of crack guidelines

After a First Circuit Appeals Court ruled that sentencing judges cannot refashion federal sentencing guidelines for crack cocaine (*RI Fed, Winter 06*), the two defendants who were the focus of that dispute – **Sambath Pho and Shawn Lewis** – were resentenced. Judge Ernest C. Torres had sentenced Pho to 64 months in prison for possessing with intent to distribute 17.73 grams of crack and Lewis to 188 months for 153 grams of crack. (Police also found guns in both men's homes). At resentencing, Judge Torres sentenced Pho to 87 months and Lewis to 235 months, both within the Congressionally approved guidelines. *Assistant U.S. Attorneys Peter H. Nerhonha, Lee H. Vilker and Appellate Chief Donald C. Lockhart.*



262 months for a career offender caught selling crack cocaine

DEA Task Force agents monitored **Adam White** selling crack on four occasions. When he arranged another sale in a parking lot off Branch Avenue in Providence, agents arrested him and seized 56 grams of crack cocaine plus about \$9,000 in cash. White, who has several prior convictions for drug trafficking and violent crimes, was sentenced to 262 months in prison as a career offender. *Assistant U.S. Attorneys Stephanie S. Browne and Stephen G. Dambruch*



DEA Distributes \$100,000 in Assets

The Drug Enforcement Administration has distributed more than \$100,000 in forfeited criminal assets to 14 RI police departments. The departments worked with DEA on investigations that resulted in the seizure of criminal assets. Most of the distribution stemmed from the liquidation of cars seized from the lot of car dealer and money launderer Renato Garcia, who is serving a 42 month federal sentence.

(Roll Call, continued from page 1)

“Gangs don’t protect people,” Rose warns. “Being in a gang actually increases the chances of being injured or killed. Gangs don’t generate respect, they live on fear. Finally, gang members can get out, they can leave the gangs and lead normal lives.”

The presentation also debunks other myths about gang life, emphasizing that gangsters don’t drive fancy cars, or “live large.” Pictures of drug dealers’ squalid apartments demonstrate that point. A list of gang members who have gone to prison for drug trafficking and other crimes aims to belie the mythical romance of gang life.

To demonstrate alternatives to gang life, the presentation identifies successful professionals – lawyers, doctors, college professors – who grew up in working class and poor neighborhoods, made the right choices, and are leading productive lives.

FEDERAL GUN CASES: PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS



Felon admits gun possession after judge rules that search was justified



Providence Police Gun Task Force officers saw **Jamaal Northup** with a group of men in a parking lot off Charles Street. They detained Northup as he started to walk away from the group and, during a pat-down, an officer pulled a loaded nine-millimeter pistol, wrapped in a white sock, out of Northup's front pants pocket. Northup challenged the legality of the pat-down search but Judge Mary Lisi ruled that the circumstances justified it. Northup pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter H. Neronha*

30 month sentence for gun possession follows car chase

John Polanco sped away after Providence Police tried to stop his car. During a pursuit across the city, the fleeing car collided with a parked one and, as Polanco and two other occupants fled on foot, officers saw him remove a handgun from his waistband and toss it away. Officers caught up with him and retrieved the handgun, a .40 caliber pistol. He pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and a federal judge sentenced him to 30 months in prison. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter H. Neronha*



Jury convicts felon for a gun in a car

Robert Taylor sat in the driver's seat of an SUV parked in Manton Heights, a gun stashed under a towel between the front seats. Providence Police officers assigned to the Gun Task Force approached the vehicle and, after noticing Taylor's suspicious movements, asked him to step out of the SUV. As he did, an officer noticed the gun barrel protruding from under the towel. Taylor tried to run, but officers subdued and arrested him. A jury in May could not reach a verdict after two days of deliberation but, following a retrial, another jury convicted him after two hours. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee H. Vilker*

PSN FINANCES ANTI-GANG & ANTI-GUN INITIATIVES



The Department of Justice Project Safe Neighborhoods has awarded approximately \$132,000 for anti-gang efforts in Providence. The grant will help fund the Providence Police Department Gang Squad and the Streetworkers violence intervention program. It is part of the Department's 2006 anti-gang initiative and is complemented by about \$55,000 in Project Safe Neighborhoods funding for gun crime initiatives, which will be used for the Providence Police Gun Squad and also for Streetworkers.

CRIMINAL DOCKET SHEET

Pipe bomb maims gang member's mother



Vanhhatdy Souvaunaxab and **Bobby Sandoura** were members of Laos Pride – a rival of theirs was a member of the Youngbloods. Souvaunaxab made pipe bombs from fireworks bought in New Hampshire and parts that he stole from his job. He was along for the ride when Sandoura tossed the bomb through a window of the rival's house. The intended victim wasn't home at the time but his mother was and the bomb exploded when she went to investigate the sound of shattering glass. She lost an eye and suffered severe lacerations. Souvaunaxab and Sandoura pled guilty to federal explosives charges. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose*

Survivor winner is sentenced to 51 months for tax evasion

Richard Hatch won more than \$1,000,000 for the first Survivor reality show series. He failed to report that income and about \$400,000 in other income, most of it emanating from his Survivor celebrity. After being convicted at trial, he was detained as a flight risk, having obtained a second passport and bought property in Canada. Because Hatch committed perjury while testifying at trial, a federal judge sentenced him to 51 months in prison, an increase from a guidelines range of 33-41 months.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrew J. Reich and Lee H. Vilker



"Natural Healer" convicted of posing as a doctor

John Curran's office had the trappings of a medical doctor's practice – degrees on the wall, "MD" on his coat, expensive diagnostic equipment. However, he'd purchased the medical degrees by mail and was not an MD. Curran charged clients thousands of dollars for questionable treatment programs that included fancy machines, a commercially available vegetable supplement that he marketed as the Green Drink and claimed to have formulated himself, and E-water, which he said had the same healing power as the water in Lourdes. He told healthy people they were seriously ill and duped ill people with claims that he could cure them. He even falsely claimed that he had cured a patient of cancer. Curran collected about \$1.4 million in fees between 2003 and 2004.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Luis M. Matos



A Spectra Color spa machine, which Curran claimed would help kill parasites. FDA agents seized it from his office

Four are convicted in extortion of gambler



Van Anh, Thinh Cao, Khong Nguyen and **Quoc Nguyen** threatened a West Warwick businessman who had lost thousands betting on basketball games. The gambler had made good on \$6,800 in losing bets but claimed he'd bet an additional \$5,200 for a friend and refused to pay. After the victim was assaulted at his shop, an associate called West Warwick Police. With help from West Warwick and the Massachusetts State Police, the FBI investigated. A federal indictment and extortion convictions resulted. *Assistant U.S. Attorneys Sandra Beckner and James H. Leavey.*

(continued on page 5)

CIVIL DOCKET SHEET

Urgent Care Center Hit for Faulty Drug Records



Pawtuxet Valley Urgent Care, on Tiogue Avenue in Coventry, has to pay \$10,000 to the federal government for failing to maintain proper records of controlled pharmaceuticals that it dispensed. The terms of a Settlement Agreement negotiated with the care center by the U.S. Attorney and the Drug Enforcement Administration also call for Pawtuxet Valley Urgent Care to obtain controlled substances from a single pharmacy. The pharmacy will supply the center with an “emergency kit” containing medications and will file reports with the DEA.

A DEA audit of Pawtuxet Valley Urgent Care determined that it failed to keep proper records of controlled substances dispensed at the center and failed to record and report the loss of controlled substances. Pawtuxet Valley Urgent care is owned by Pawtuxet Valley Medical, Inc. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Adi Goldstein*

CRIMINAL DOCKET SHEET (CONTINUED)

Two admit skimming equity from HUD-backed nursing homes

Antonio Giordano owned three nursing homes that were financed by HUD-insured mortgages. **John Montecalvo** managed the finances for the homes. Although the homes were in default of the mortgages and were operating without enough cash to meet all expenses, Giordano and Montecalvo insisted that \$780,000 be paid to My Place Inc., which Giordano’s daughter owned and which provided fringe employee benefits, such as hosting holiday parties. Other employees complained that the services were frivolous but the defendants insisted that the payments be made. Making such unreasonable and unnecessary payments when a federally backed facility is in a precarious financial situation or in default of HUD-insured mortgage is considered equity skimming. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew J. Reich*

Conviction for assaulting a deputy marshal

U.S. Marshals had a warrant for **Richard Paiva**’s arrest for violating his supervisory release. Paiva, recently released from prison for drug trafficking, had threatened to kill his former girlfriend and had otherwise failed to comply with release conditions. When deputies tracked him to a house in Narragansett, he lunged at a deputy, pinning him to the wall and floor of a basement. Other deputies helped subdue Paiva. He was convicted of assaulting a federal officer. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie S. Browne*



ANTI-TERRORISM: FOCUS ON RAIL SECURITY

Early on a Sunday morning, a bomb goes off at the Providence train station, causing dozens of casualties and triggering a response by more than 100 emergency personnel. That was the scenario of a drill that took place at the station on June 4. And the prospect of such a tragedy was the focus of a forum on rail security that was organized by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the U.S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC).

Joseph S. Salter, the Federal Security Director for TSA in Rhode Island, said that rail safety is a growing concern of his agency, acknowledging that, after the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington, much of the nation's and Congress' attention was on aviation security.

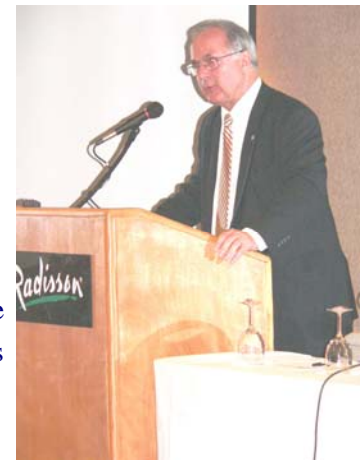


Tracks curve out of the Providence Station

featured presentations by federal rail and transportation safety officials and by the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority Transit Police Intelligence Unit. Detective Sergeant Lewis Best said his unit collaborates with other intelligence groups in the Boston area but focuses exclusively on rail security. Through a Web site and a flyer program called "See Something, Say Something," the unit also shares information with MBTA riders and encourages input from them.

John Bonner, a TSA intelligence specialist, said the decentralization of international terrorism has made rail systems a vulnerable target. "The trend is toward 'homegrown,' citizens or lawful, (*continued on page 7*)

"In TSA today, we are increasingly focused on our other modal responsibilities and the magnitude of that challenge is great," Mr. Salter told those at the forum, which drew about 100 people to the Radisson Hotel in Warwick. Federal and state agencies were represented, as were the twelve communities through which Rhode Island's 140 miles of railroad tracks run. Each of those communities sent law enforcement, emergency response and municipal management officials.



TSA Rhode Island Security Director Joseph Salter addresses the rail safety forum

"The trend is toward 'homegrown,' citizens or lawful permanent residents who are only loosely affiliated with al-Qaeda..." — TSA Intelligence Specialist John Bonner

PARTNERS AT WORK: MURAL CELEBRATES OLNEYVILLE & HARTFORD COMMUNITIES



A new mural at the corner of Hartford Avenue and Heath Street celebrates the communities of Olneyville, where Rhode Island's first Weed & Seed site began in 1999 and Hartford, which the Providence site now also includes.

The mural celebrates historical and multicultural elements of the surrounding neighborhood. Part of it depicts neighborhood landmarks, including Perry Middle School and the Woonasquatucket River.

Artist Patricia Flyntz designed and painted the mural with help from neighborhood children, including children from the Olneyville Boys and Girls Club. Olneyville Housing Corporation, Providence Weed & Seed and the District 5 Providence Police jointly commissioned the mural through Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Community Safety Initiative. United Way of Rhode Island provided funding for the project.

A primary objective of the mural is to deter graffiti.



Operation Weed & Seed is a Department of Justice initiative that unites community residents in anti-crime efforts and helps seed community revitalization.

There are three active Weed & Seed sites in Rhode Island: Olneyville / Hartford in Providence and Pleasant View and Woodlawn in Pawtucket.

(Rail Security, continued from page 6)

permanent residents who are only loosely affiliated with al-Qaeda or other international organizations but still willing to carry out the objectives of those groups," Bonner said. He pointed to the July 2005 London subway attacks as an example.

TSA Director Salter emphasized the critical importance of communications and partnerships in protecting Rhode Island's rail system. "Partnerships, planning and patrols are the basics that will help us mitigate the threat of an attack against our rail system," he added.

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